



JAN 21 1999  
MATRIX CUSTOMER  
SERVICE CENTER

1 9M 1634  
1-23-99  
PATENT  
# 5/A  
Docket No. 2026-4116US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Bukh, et al. Group Art Unit : 1634  
Serial No. : 09/084,691 Examiner : L.F. Smith  
Filed : May 26, 1998  
For : NUCLEOTIDE AND DEDUCED AMINO ACID SEQUENCES OF THE  
ENVELOPE 1 AND CORE GENES OF ISOLATES OF HEPATITIS C  
VIRUS AND THE USE OF REAGENTS DERIVED FROM THESE  
SEQUENCES IN DIAGNOSTIC METHODS AND VACCINES

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. 1.8a)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

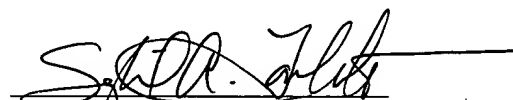
Sir:

I hereby certify that the attached 1) Preliminary Amendment; and 2) Return Postcard (along with any paper(s) referred to as being attached or enclosed) and this Certificate of Mailing are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Respectfully submitted,  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: January 11, 1999

By:

  
Sybil A. Lombillo

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in response to an office action dated December 9, 1998, in which the Examiner requested that Applicants elect a single disclosed polypeptide species for prosecution in this application. Applicants also respectfully request that the following amendments be entered.

In The Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

4. (Amended) A purified and isolated protein encoded by a gene sequence